

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

14th October 2022

RCGP Report: Fit for the future

The RCGP have produced a report [Fit for the Future: a new plan for GPs and their patients](#). This followed a survey conducted earlier this year with 1,262 GPs responding, covering a cross section of doctors in different stages of their career and from across England. Key findings from the survey include:

- 68% of GPs say they don't have enough time to adequately assess and treat patients during appointments
- 64% of GPs say they don't have enough time during appointments to build the patient relationships they need to deliver quality care
- 65% of GPs say that patient safety is being compromised due to appointments being too short
- 34% say that the IT for their booking systems are not good enough
- 64% said their computer systems were not able to properly share information with hospitals
- 75% of GPs said that encouraging specialists to refer patients to other specialists themselves where appropriate rather asking GPs to re-refer them would make a significant difference to GP workloads.
- 68% of GPs said that making back-office functions more efficient would make a significant difference to GP workloads
- 74% of respondents to our survey said that their practice does not have sufficient physical space necessary to accommodate new staff
- 42% of GPs say that they are planning to quit the profession in the next five years
- 80% of GPs expect working in general practice to get worse over the next few years, compared to only 6% who expect it to get better

They are therefore calling on politicians and decision makers with responsibility for the NHS in England to commit to a bold new plan to provide GPs and patients with the support that they need. This should include:

- A new recruitment and retention strategy that allows us to go beyond the target of 6000 more GPs, backed by a £150 million annual GP retention fund, increasing the number of GP training places by at least 10% year on year, and changes to the current visa rules to make it easier for international GP trainees to stay and work in the UK
- An NHS wide campaign to free up GPs to spend more time with patients by cutting unnecessary workload and bureaucracy, including through a review of contractual requirements and improving coordination between primary and secondary care
- Improving patients' experience of accessing care by investing in a new suite of IT products and support for practices, making it easier for patients to choose to see the same GP or the next available member of the team
- Allocate a bigger share of the NHS budget to general practice to return funding to 11% of total health spend - with £1 billion additional investment in GP premises, more funding for practices serving deprived communities, and extra money for primary care networks to provide preventative care and promote population health

Citizen access to records programme

Many practices and practitioners are concerned about the significant risks related to the planned change to enable prospective access to records from 1 November. Concerns focus on the safeguarding risks, particularly to those who are vulnerable or have coercive partners.

Following representations made to NHS England, GPC England has not received satisfactory assurance that the citizen access to records programme should go ahead as planned. Against a backdrop of sky-high pressures on general practice, the necessary planning and resourcing required to launch the programme at this time cannot be put in place to enable a safe and successful rollout. The BMA state that they are supportive of the initiative to enable patients to view their medical records but this cannot be rushed. They are continuing to discuss this with NHS England and are seeking a delay or modification to the programme. We expect a statement from GPC England about this shortly.

In the meantime, practices may wish to join the NHS England webinar [TPP SystemOne demonstration and Q+A](#) on 19 October 12-12.30pm

PCN and practice development funding

NHS England has produced [Primary care system development funding \(SDF\) and GPIT funding guidance](#). This is £78m for 2022/23 that brings together previous Digital First and PCN Development funding. The expectation is that it is not spent directly on equipment, software or licenses, but rather on supporting practice and PCN teams to implement the change activity needed to embed and get best impact from new ways of working. It outlines that they want ICSs to use the funding in practices and PCNs to:

- a. understand the type and intensity of support needs of their general practices and distribute resource to where it is needed most
- b. retain and expand staff capacity (e.g. making full use of ARRS roles and supporting retention of existing staff)
- c. strengthen staff skills and capability to lead change, and build high performing teams
- d. improve ways of working that support timely access for patients and carers to Primary Care

In addition there remains a limited amount of General Practice Resilience Funding available, which is £8m in 2022/23. The purpose of this funding is to deliver support that will help practices become more sustainable and resilient.

The document also provides a reminder of a number of workforce schemes, including the New to Partnership scheme which gives eligible participants a sum of up to £20,000 plus a contribution towards on-costs of up to £4,000 (for a full-time participant) to support establishment as a partner, as well as up to £3,000 in a training fund to develop non-clinical partnership skills. Practices with eligible new partners should apply for this.

In addition, practice nurses, new to general practice, are now included in the Fellowship Scheme.

Practice and PCN Contract changes

From Tuesday 1 October, changes to the network contract service took effect, as outlined in the NHSE [cover note](#). This sets out arrangements following the small expansion in roles that primary care networks can recruit to. Further supporting information is included below:

- [Network contract DES specification](#)
- [Network contract DES guidance 22/23](#)
- [Network contract DES FAQs 22-23](#)
- [IIF updated guidance 22/23](#)
- [IIF summary 22-23](#)
- [DES personalised care guidance](#)

In addition, [GMS and PMS contract changes](#) and APMS directions have been introduced, including:

- changes regarding premises requirements where services are provided remotely
- expansion of the provisions regarding the disclosure of information about NHS earnings and confirmation of the disclosure date for self-declaration submissions
- removal of the requirement that 25% of appointments are available for online booking, replaced with a requirement that all directly bookable appointments are able to be booked online, as well as in person or via the telephone.
- the ability for patients to register digitally is now supported.

Influenza specification

NHSE has published an [updated flu specification](#), alongside updated guidance, which now covers vaccination of practice staff. Whilst this will ensure that flu vaccinations provided to staff will be covered under the CNSGP, please be aware, however, that practice staff vaccination will still not be eligible for an IoS payment or vaccine reimbursement for this year.

Influenza data issue

NHSE has alerted us to issues impacting both adult and childhood seasonal flu extracts for September, which could result in inaccurate flu payment data. Further work is underway to fully investigate the issues and how they can be resolved.

As a result, NHSE are advising that practices do not declare their September flu achievement data and that commissioners do not yet approve those that have been declared. This is to avoid the need for manual reconciliation work once the issues have been resolved. Further information should be available later in the week.

Covid infection rates

Hospitals across West Yorkshire now have a total of 523 patients with COVID-19. Over the last week the total has increased by 146 (39%). The number has increased significantly from a low point of 124 on 17 September. The current total includes 12 patients in mental health beds. The number in HDU/ITU is four. Non-COVID demand remains very high in all sectors.

Infection rates are increasing. In the w/e 24 September 2.03% of the population in England were estimated to test positive, or around 1 in 50 people (data published 7 October 2022). There remains variation in the prevalence across the country although infections are increasing in all regions. The number of community infections in Yorkshire and Humber is increasing where an estimated 2.1% of the population were estimated to test positive for COVID-19 in the latest data release.

Lab result system error

Practices have recently experienced a significant problem with the transmission of laboratory test results, with a delay for some and then multiple duplications for others, leading to increased workload for practices in dealing with them. The LMC raised this

problem and have now been assured that the problem has been resolved. The underlying cause is still unknown, but may have been related to a problem with the Keystone system supplied by EMIS. The LTHT team are working with EMIS to identify the root cause and prevent further outages. Data flows are now back, and practices are now receiving results, albeit numerous duplicates in some cases. If the large volume of results received has caused a system error, then please contact Pathology IT (Christopher.Wilson8@nhs.net)

Death registration - new informant contact arrangements

The Registrars service currently uses the informant contact details provided by GP surgeries to telephone the individual and book a death registration appointment. However we have been informed that there has been a change to the process. Once the medical certificate of cause of death has been triaged, the individual will receive a text message inviting them to book an appointment online. As many people are cautious about using links in text messages, it would be helpful to explain this new process to help alleviate any concerns. Where possible, please collect the phone or email contact details for the person who will be registering a death. Individuals who only have a landline number will continue to be contacted by phone.

Online practice registration

Patients are now able to find practices offering the new [Register with a GP surgery](#) service via the NHS [Find a GP webpage](#). Practices are being invited [self-enrol](#) if they wish to join this scheme alongside the 100 practices already taking part. Early testing has shown the service has reduced the application processing time for practice staff up to 15 minutes per registration, while offering patients more choice, convenience, and consistency in the way they register.

Updated staff respect materials available for all primary care settings

NHS England have updated public facing material that practices may wish to use. They can be downloaded from their [NHS Staff Respect](#) page, featuring NHS staff working in a range of different NHS settings, including general practice, carrying the message 'We are here to help you. Thank you for treating us with respect'. They have been produced to support NHS teams to reduce abuse and violence against staff and includes posters, social media graphics, digital screen graphics for waiting rooms or staff room screens, and a poster template is also available for download that can be used to feature photography of teams, or individual members of staff.

NHS Resolution Primary Care Appeals monthly email updates

NHS Resolution's [Primary Care Appeals](#) service is responsible for the prompt and fair resolution of disputes between primary care contractors and NHS England and/or integrated care boards (ICBs). It recently launched a monthly email, providing details of the decisions in the previous month and highlighting any new or updated guidance or resources. Practices can [register for updates](#) and select the primary care contractor group that applies to you.

BMA expenses survey

Practices across England are feeling the impact of inflation and high energy costs, and the BMA want to hear about your practice's experiences. [Please complete our survey](#) so that we can collect the evidence they need to advocate on your behalf. The survey asks for a range of information relating to practice costs including energy, staffing and other expenses. While they would encourage you to complete the whole survey, if you do not yet have all the information asked for, please still complete the parts you can.

The BMA need to hear from as many practices as possible to enable us to make a strong case to NHSE/I, DHSC and the Government to seek solutions. The survey closes on 20th October

Leeds GP Confederation Chair

The Leeds GP Confederation has launched its election process for a new Chair. The post, who must be a GP, attracts remuneration for the one day a week the role requires. This is not just a key role for the Confederation but also for the Health & Care System of Leeds. The role is part of the Confederation leadership being key in galvanising the membership and assuring the Confederations purpose <https://www.leedsqpcconfederation.org.uk/about-us/our-purpose/> is met within a long term strategic plan. The following information explains the role in detail as well as the application process which the LMC are facilitating on the Confederations behalf. Please see the links below:

[Invitation to apply - Chair of GP Confed](#)
[Application form](#)
[Job description](#)

Petra Morgan

The LMC was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Petra Morgan. She has worked with many members of the LMC over the last two decades, leading on many initiatives that have made a big difference for patients and practices. She was a great advocate for general practice. We extend our sincere condolences to all her family, friends and practice team. All those who had the privilege with work with her will miss her greatly.

Her practice partners have circulated the following message:

“It is with great sadness we must report that Petra Morgan, our Chief Executive Officer at Street Lane Practice died suddenly yesterday. She is simply irreplaceable.

Petra worked at our surgery for 22 years and for many years she was the face of SLP. She was an ebullient, energetic and exuberant woman. When in residence her laughter filled the building. She was always the last to leave a party and was the beating heart of any social occasion she attended. Her work ethic and efficiency were formidable. She held herself to very high standards which greatly influenced those who worked in her command.

Petra had a great vision for Primary Care, which meant she was involved in many Projects across the NHS in Leeds. The work she did was of enormous benefit to many in terms of developing and maintaining high quality accessible patient care. This work forms an impressive legacy which will endure long after her untimely death.

The Clinical and Administrative team at SLP will endeavour to continue with business as usual. We are truly grateful for the kind words of condolence and offers of help and support from our colleagues. We are sorry we have not managed to respond to each individual message received, but we do value and appreciate them all.

Dr Sunderland, Dr Baker, Dr Hobman and Dr Purewal”

Cameron Fund – Christmas Appeal 2022

On behalf of our Treasurer, Dr Ian Winterton, please find attached the Cameron Fund Christmas Appeal letter. We would be very grateful if you could share this with your

members and ask them to consider making a donation. The letter is also available on our website at: www.cameronfund.org.uk/news-updates/2022-christmas-appeal/ .

If possible, please could you forward the letter to Practice Managers with a request to distribute to all GPs at their surgery.

One resource that we share with new applicants is our Ten Top Tips for Financial Wellbeing document. This is a money management guide for newly qualified and working GPs. If you have a moment to re-tweet our latest tweet about this, it would be much appreciated:

twitter.com/TheCameronFund/status/1579788295198113793

Comings & Goings

Dr Jackie Campbell Senior partner retired from Lingwell Croft Surgery today after 34 years' service. She was also the clinical lead at the CCG when it first started for a few years. Dr Caroline Potter is becoming a partner from 1st October, she is currently a Salaried GP here.

Vacancies

“OneMedical Group is hiring!

We have an amazing opportunity for a **GPwER in Dermatology** (salaried or freelance) at **Leeds Community Dermatology Collaborative**. Situated at **The Light**.

Leeds Community Dermatology Collaborative supports patients with dermatological conditions, improving patient experience and outcomes. **OneMedical Group**, as part of the Collaborative, provide these services.

We are looking for **General Practitioners with Extended Role in Dermatology** to work **up to 4 sessions a week**. However, we can be flexible in terms of working time.

If you or someone you know could be interested in the job, please advise them to check our advert [here](#) and apply.

If you want to talk further about the vacancy or have any questions about the application process, please contact Andrew Bone, our Recruitment Coordinator, at recruitment@onemedicalgroup.co.uk

If you want to find more about our company, please visit our website at: <https://onemedicalgroup.co.uk/> “